

From: Neeraj Tulsian
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:46am
Subject: Opinion on the proposed Microsoft Settlement

Dear Officer of the US Dept. of Justice,

I am a Software Engineer with a Master's in Computer Science. In my opinion the proposed settlement in the Microsoft Anti-trust case is grossly inadequate for the seriousness of the situation.

The stranglehold that Microsoft has on the desktop software industry is painfully obvious to me since 1991 when I first started my career. Managers in companies make decisions to buy Microsoft products not because of the technical superiority of Microsoft's products, but because of the fear that any competing products will soon be driven out of the desktop market by Microsoft's strong arm tactics or their outright purchase of the company.

Microsoft at best is a company that borrows ideas from competitors like Apple and quickly takes over all market share by price-cutting, give-away policies and packaging the new products with its operating systems.

As a developer of software I have seen many excellent companies become the victim of this anti-competitive behavior.

More-over Microsoft uses its vast resources on drowning competitors in legal battles, thus resulting in smaller companies with limited financial resources quickly losing the battle.

In my opinion it does not make sense that the company with the lowest quality operating system has an ever expanding monopoly over the desktop. The average consumer deserves better than frequent system crashes, constant security problems and lack of a viable choice of the desktop.

Microsoft's sole concern is its ability to make money and it has no interest in the long term competitive health of the computer industry, or the interests of the common citizen.

The proposed solution does nothing to remedy these problems and introduce realistic competition in the desktop arena, and punish the company that has already been proven guilty of monopolistic behavior.

Similar measures introduced in the past had no noticeable improvement in Microsoft's monopolistic behavior, and I don't see any change in Microsoft's aggressive behavior.

The earlier proposed breakup of the company might be the closest we can get to introducing competition and rectifying the errors of the past.

I would urge the US Dept. of Justice to fight for the common man and not for the monopolistic Microsoft.

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